

REMARKS

Claims 1, 13, 26, 30 and 33-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberts et al. (US 2830622) in view of Roberts et al. (US 2897840). Claims 2, 3 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable Roberts et al. '622 in view of Roberts et al.'840 and Akman et al. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberts et al. '622 in view of Roberts et al. '840 and Voss et al. Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberts et al. '622 in view of Roberts et al. '840 and Hoshishima et al. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberts et al. '622 in view of Roberts et al. '840 and Torghele. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberts et al. '622 in view of Roberts et al. '840 and Houser. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberts et al. '622 in view of Roberts et al. '840 and Babbitt et al. Claims 28 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberts et al. '622 in view of Roberts et al.'840, Sadr, and Voss et al. Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claims 5 and 6, overcoming the rejections.

Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberts et al. '622 in view of Roberts et al. '840 and Sadr. The Examiner states that Roberts et al. '622 does not disclose a loading end and a vacuum end, and the step of drawing the hose includes inserting the first end of the hose into the loading end of the forming tube. The Examiner states that Sadr discloses a vacuum applied to a vacuum end of a mold cavity to facilitate loading of a parison, and it would be obvious to employ this feature in the combination of Roberts et al. '622 and Roberts et al. '840. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The claimed invention is not obvious. Roberts '622 discloses a hollow mandrel 10 with a center bore 11 with a plurality of passages 12, and an outer jacket 13 that extends for the full length. A body 14 is disposed on the outer jacket 13 to be set into a final form (column 2, lines 24 to 40). Fluid pressure applied to the bore 11 in the mandrel 10 expands the body 14 slightly outwardly (column 2, lines 58 to 61). Roberts '622 also includes a mold 18 with a cylindrical molding cavity 19. The mold 18 is longitudinally split with two sections 18a and 18b (shown in Figure 5). The body 14 is removed from the mandrel 10 and located in to the mold 18 and inflated, forcing the body 14 outwardly (column 3, lines 1 to 18). As the mold 18 includes two

sections 18a and 18b, there is no reason to employ a vacuum to draw the body 14 into the mold 18 as the mold 18 is in two parts.

Additionally, as stated in column 4, lines 33 to 35, a cylindrical tube 24 could be used instead of the mold 18. However, in this example, the body 14 and the mandrel 10 are inserted into a mold 24 having a smooth inner bore 19a having a diameter conforming to an outer diameter of the hose 14 and being preferably slightly larger than the clamp so that the mandrel 10 can be readily inserted as shown in Figure 7. A vacuum would not be used in this situation as the mold 24 is designed for easy insertion of the body 14. The claimed invention is not obvious.

Additionally, Roberts et al. '622 discloses that an end plug 20 is inserted an end of the body 14 to allow the hose to be inflated from a suitable source (column 3, lines 4 to 9). A second end plug is not disclosed. Nothing in Roberts et al. '622 discloses the need of a second end plug as the structure of the other end of the body 14 is not disclosed. Roberts et al. '840 also does not disclose positioning the ends of a hose against endcaps during curing. Roberts et al. '840 discloses forming a hose by employing plugs 13 and 14 during a process of forming a corrugated wall 12b. The hose is then removed from a mold 17 and placed into a steam chamber S shown in Figure 12 to cure the hose (column 4, line 73 to column 5, lines 12). The plug 13 and 14 are not used during the curing process as the hose has been removed from the mold 17. Therefore, Roberts et al. et al. '840 does not disclose positioning an end cap against each end of a hose during a step of curing. The claimed invention is not obvious.

Claims 1 and 31-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan et al. (US 4013101) in view of Roberts et al. '622 and Roberts et al. '840. Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claims 5 and 6, overcoming the rejection.

No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.

/Karin H. Butchko/

Karin H. Butchko
Registration No. 45,864
400 West Maple Road, Suite 350
Birmingham, Michigan 48009
Telephone: (248) 988-8360
Facsimile: (248) 988-8363

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